

## **The Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River**

Both the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River are important and valuable water resources to the State of Louisiana. Both are an integral part of Louisiana's water quality management program and have taken on even greater importance in recent years. Because of their interstate connections and national and world significance, LDEQ has worked with a variety of state, federal and local agencies, and other entities to develop appropriate management plans and address water quality and other environmental problems. For Louisiana, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River have a special relationship since the Mississippi River terminates at the Gulf of Mexico and utilizing sediment from across the vast River watershed has built several river deltas that have been shaped by the Gulf over geologic time. The configuration of the Louisiana Coastal Zone today and its unique culture and productivity is due to this complex interaction of Gulf and River.

The Gulf and River today are beset by a variety of issues and problems. Listed below are some of these issues and areas where LDEQ is actively involved to address them. They include: Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia, Gulf of Mexico Program, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and Lower Mississippi River.